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## Carter Gets Wide-Ranging Advice on Soviet Troops From Expert Panel

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 — President Carter received wide-ranging and often conflicting advice today from 15 former high officials prominent in the national security field on how to respond to the Soviet-American deadlock over the reported presence of a Soviet combat brigade in Cuba.

According to participants in the session, Mr. Carter indicated to the advisers that he already had a general idea of what he wanted to tell the nation in the speech he is to make Monday night. He asked each one of the men around the table to comment or offer other opinions.

After the White House lunch with the group, Mr. Carter flew to Camp David to work on his report, which will be given over national television at 9 P.M., New York time, on Monday.

"It was an extraordinary experience," one participant said. Organized into one group for the last two days were three former Secretaries of State, Henry A. Kissinger, William P. Rogers and Dean Rusk, and other ranking members of previous Administrations.

### Clifford Serves as Chairman

Clark M. Clifford, who headed the group, told reporters later that there was an understanding by the participants not to comment publicly about the proceedings. But some of them were willing to discuss privately the way the meeting had been conducted.

"We weren't asked to come up with a consensus or any specific recommendation," one said. "That would have been impossible; given the mix of Republicans and Democrats, hard-liners and doves."

"There was a wide variety of views," another said, "and a real desire to be helpful, a real feeling by everyone that this is an issue we have to look at together, a national issue which calls for a national response, and a very serious effort to give the President our best judgment."

No one predominated, participants said. "Even Mr. Kissinger was treated as

an equal and no one tried to shout out the other," one said.

It was not clear, however, what Mr. Carter would tell the nation. He has been offered various options, ranging from stepped-up military surveillance of Cuban and Soviet activities and increases in defense spending to moves to harass the Russians by improving ties with China.

### No Response to Castro Planned

Meanwhile, Administration officials said they planned no official comment on the scathing attack on Mr. Carter delivered yesterday by President Fidel Castro of Cuba. They did note that Mr. Castro's denial of a Soviet combat brigade's presence was identical with the Soviet position as stated by Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko to Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance on Thursday.

Although the impasse over the American contention that the Russians have a 2,000- to 3,000-man combat unit in Cuba has seemed to sour Soviet-American relations, there was no crisis atmosphere in Washington. This was largely because of the Administration's insistence that the brigade posed no security threat to the United States and that no military confrontation was contemplated. Therefore the problem is viewed here primarily as political.

The issue put to the panel, referred to by the White House as "The Wise Men," is how to carry out Mr. Carter's pledge not to accept the status quo regarding the brigade without ruining the chances for Senate approval of the strategic arms treaty and without weakening American prestige abroad.

The panel's head, Mr. Clifford, 72 years old, has served as a political adviser to Democratic Presidents since Harry S. Truman, and was Lyndon B. Johnson's Secretary of Defense at the end of Mr. Johnson's term.

Originally, the Clifford group had seven members, but it was enlarged in recent days so that it now totals 18. One member, William W. Scranton, former Governor of Pennsylvania and chief delegate to the United Nations for President Gerald R. Ford, did not attend today's lunch.

The seven-man group spent nine hours last Monday at the Central Intelligence Agency, being briefed on the Cuban situation and asking what one member of the group said were "hard" questions of the intelligence officials.

Besides Mr. Clifford, that group included: John J. McCloy, 84, high commissioner for Germany after World War II; McGeorge Bundy, 60, national security adviser to Presidents John F. Kennedy and Johnson; Sol M. Linowitz, 63, a Panama Canal Treaty negotiator; David Packard, 67, Deputy Secretary of Defense under President Richard M. Nixon; John A. McCone, 77, head of the C.I.A. under Mr. Kennedy; and Brent Scowcroft, 54, national security adviser to President Ford.

Those seven were joined by nine other former officials last night at the White House, where they had dinner in the Roosevelt Room and were briefed by Adm. Stansfield Turner, Director of Central Intelligence.

Also present were two new White House aides, Lloyd Cutler and Hedley Donovan, who were largely responsible for the idea of "The Wise Men," as a follow-up to the practice of seeking outside counsel that was used by Mr. Carter at Camp David in July before he made his television speech on energy and leadership.

In addition to Mr. Kissinger, 56, Mr. Rogers, 66, and Mr. Rusk, 70, the others at the lunch with Mr. Carter included:

George W. Ball, 70, Under Secretary of State for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson; Roswell L. Gilpatric, 72, Deputy

Secretary of Defense for President Kennedy; W. Averell Harriman, 87, who has served every Democratic President since Franklin D. Roosevelt and was a wartime ambassador in Moscow; James R. Schlesinger, 50, head of the C.I.A. and Defense Secretary in the Nixon and Ford Administrations; and Energy Secretary for Mr. Carter; and Nicholas DeB. Katzenbach, 57, Under Secretary of State for President Johnson.